

TOPS Working Committee

Jimmy Camp Creek Park

Informational Presentation

April 6, 2022

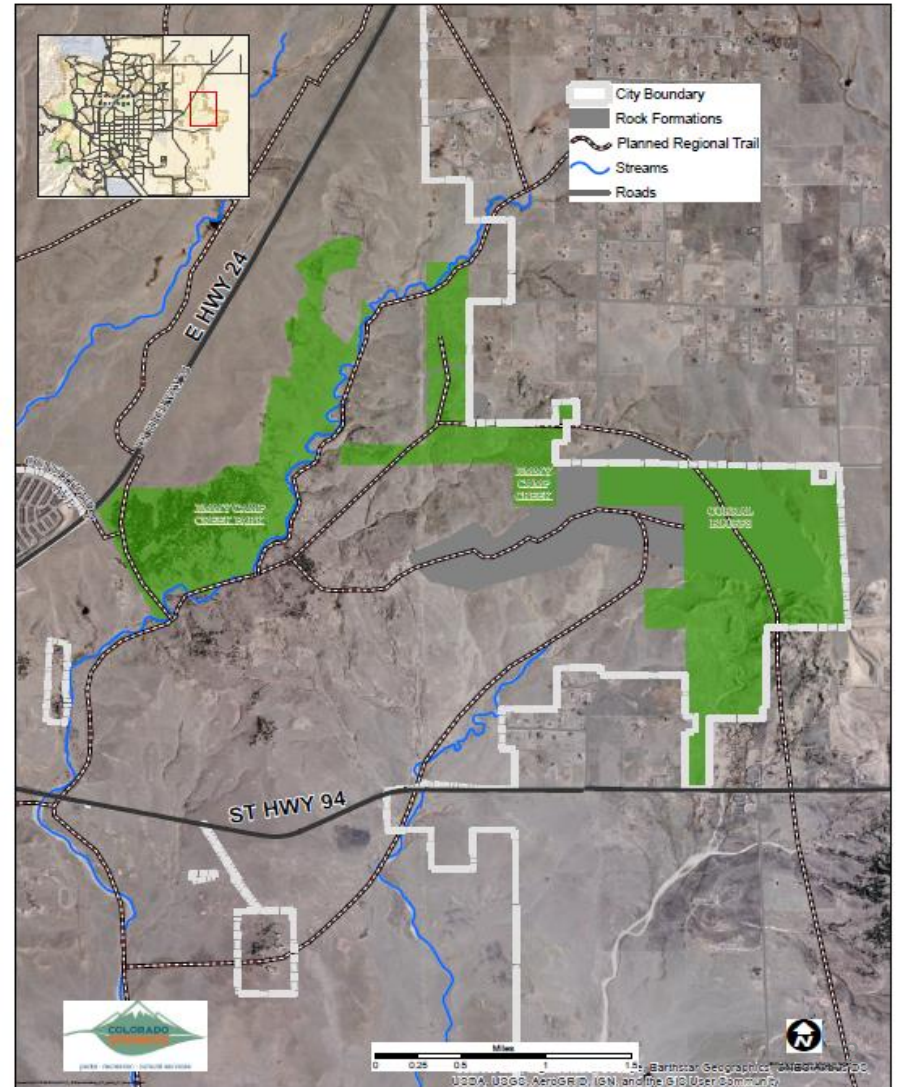
Britt Haley- Design & Development Manager
Matt Mayberry-Cultural Services Manager
Anna Cordova- Parks Department Archaeologist



General Context Map



- 693 acres gifted to the City in 1988 as part of the original Banning Lewis Ranch annexation
- Updated City of Colorado Springs property ownership in green
- 2020 acquisitions in the center Jimmy Camp Creek Connection properties
- Located between State Highway 24 and State Highway 94



Unique Features and Opportunities



- **Property Planning**
- **History**
- **Archaeology**



Photo Credit
Sharon Milito

Property Planning Overview



- Acquired 1988 Annexation of Banning Lewis Ranch
- Not part of Parkland Dedication for development process (PLDO)
- Passive recreational uses identified in the annexation agreement
- PK Zoning commitment-Passive uses until master planned to avoid damage to known significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites

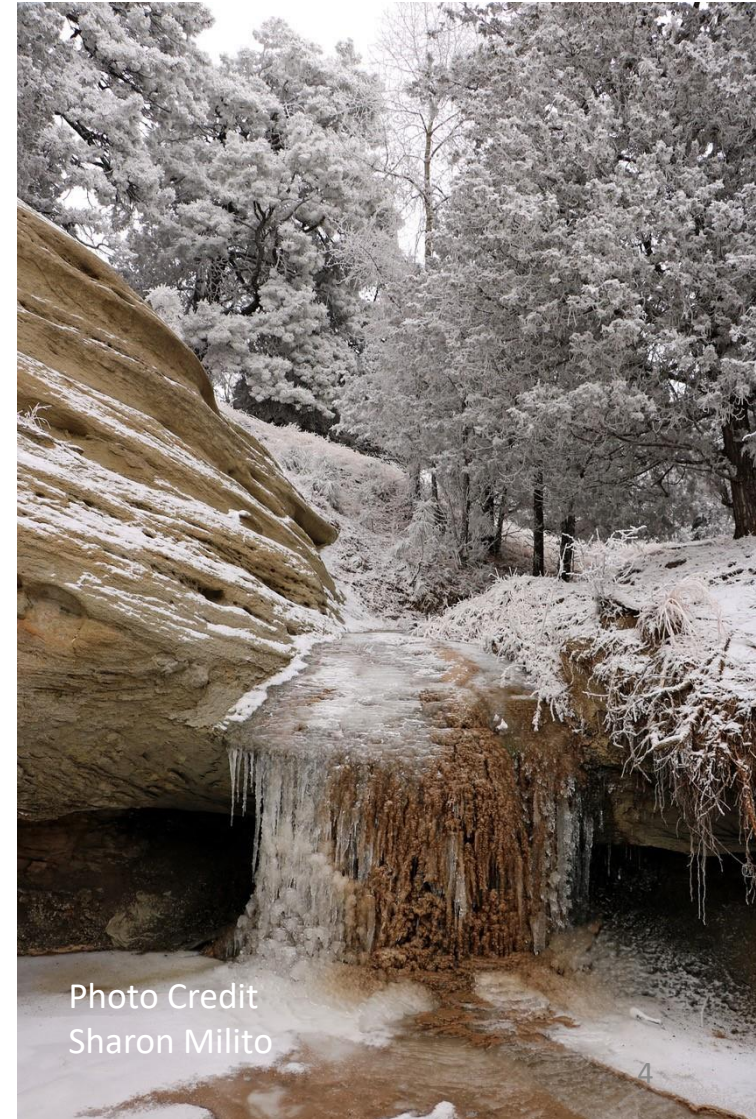


Photo Credit
Sharon Milito

Park Planning Practical Considerations



- Connectivity to Corral Bluffs Open Space is our goal
- Boundaries- Irregular, surrounded by private property
 - Irregular shape requires boundary definition or additional acquisition
 - Cattle grazing on the neighboring property requires special care
- Neighboring development planning-need to coordinate
 - Access to be developed from Highway 24 via an easement across private property
 - Current access is a two-track dirt road with a ranch gate
 - Future Banning Lewis Parkway access seems like a possibility on the south side of the property
- Significant wildlife habitat and trail opportunities
- Current actions to prepare for planning
 - Archaeological survey work will be conducted this year to confirm and identify sites
 - Property acquisition discussions ongoing
 - Tribal consultation

Cultural and Scientific Landscape



- Jimmy Camp and Corral Bluffs are connected by a shared geology, topography and natural resources.
- Extraordinary paleontology research and more discoveries are expected.
- Water is a key element at the site that provided forage, game, and shelter
- Extensive prehistoric and historic human habitation



“Jimmy Camp has an incredible record of human occupation that is unique anywhere in the state.”

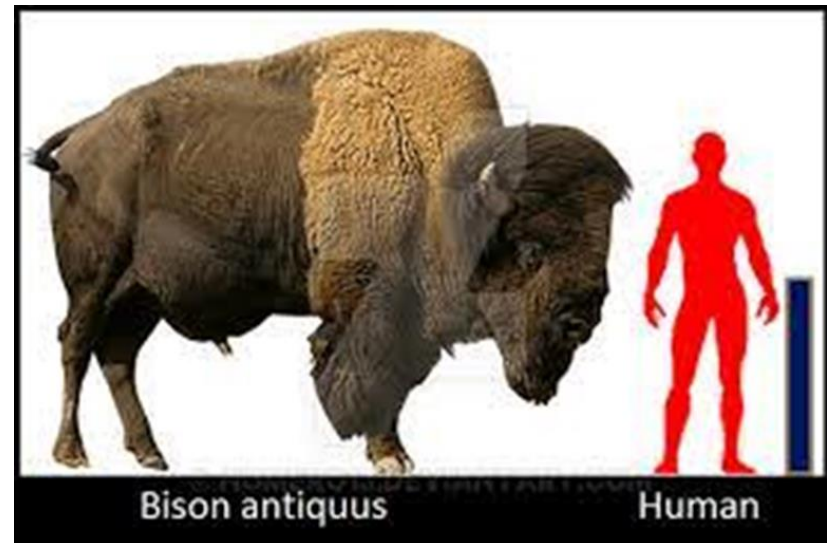
Dr. Holly Norton,
Colorado State Archaeologist



Prehistoric Timeline



- Evidence of human occupation at least 3,500 years ago and possibly much older.





Historic Timeline

- Spanish, French, American trade and influence
- Exploration and cattle trails
- Coal mining and railroads
- Settlement and ranching



Historic Timeline

- Increased scientific interest leads to major discovery by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- [“Rise of the Mammals”](#)
Documentary

What is archaeology?



- Human-made material culture
- 50 years or older
- Can include features such as roads, modified natural objects (like peeled trees), buildings, etc.
- Separate from the paleontology
- Requires a permit and consultation through the State Archaeologist's Office
- Often required as part of environmental review processes



Chipped stone tools found at Jimmy Camp



Lid of ice cream churn patented in 1898



Projectile point found at nearby Corral Bluffs

Archeological and Cultural Resources



- A minimum of 144 archaeological sites and isolated finds
- Site density like the Four Corners (Mesa Verde) area
- Many sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- Unique within the state
- Only one site has been excavated/investigated
- Human remains have been found here
- Fairly untouched



- “In my more than 30 years of cultural resource consulting and archaeological investigations ...I have never encountered a locale with the density of significant sites as that presented at Jimmy Camp Creek Park.” – Bill Arbogast, Archaeologist



Bill Arbogast - Archaeologist

Types of Resources



- Pre-European Contact sites with potential to teach us things about that past that we do not currently know:
 - camping
 - hunting
 - subsistence
 - trade
- Post-European Contact sites represent:
 - Ranching
 - Homesteading
 - Trade
 - WWII Training
- Natural resources that have cultural meaning to Native American tribes



What does mitigation look like?



- Researching what we already know of the property
- Re-visitation of sites and additional survey
- Tribal consultation
- Consultation with State Archaeologist's Office and Native American Tribes
- Evaluation of threats to the sites from future public access
- Development of a plan for future inspections to evaluate new threats to the archaeological resources



A view of Jimmy Camp's trees with fall foliage with Pikes Peak in the background

Questions...



Photo Credit
Sharon Milito